

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L WARSAW 7437

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PL

SUBJECT: NEW MINISTER OF SCIENCE, HIGHER EDUCATION AND
TECHNOLOGY

1. SUMMAR: EXPLAINING THAT THE RISING DEMANDS IN SCIENCE, HIGHER EDUCATION, AND TECHNOLOGY DICTATED THE UNDESIRABILITY OF PLACING A DOUBLE BURDEN IN THIS AREA UPON ONE MAN, PREMIER JAROSZEWICZ ANNOUNCED ON DECEMBER 17 THAT HE WAS NAMING SYLWESTER KALISKI TO REPLACE JAN KACZMAREK AS MINISTER OF SCIENCE, HIGHER EDUCATION, AND TECHNOLOGY. JAROSZEWICZ SAID THAT KACZMAREK WOULD RETAIN HIS POSITION AS SCIENTIFIC SECRETARY OF THE POLISH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES (PAN). ALTHOUGH A CAREER MILITARY OFFICER SINCE 1950 AND THE COMMANDANT OF THE MILITARY TECHNICAL ACADEMY SINCE 1967, KALISKI IS THOUGHT OF IN THE FIRST INSTANCE HERE AS ONE OF POLAND'S MOST ACCOPLISHED AND RESPECTED RESEARCH SCIENTISTS. END SUMMAR.

2. KACZMAREK'S REMOVAL FROM HIS MINISTERIAL JOB FOLLOWS THE CURRENT TREND OF MOVING AWAY FROM A SITUATION IN WHICH SEVERAL KEY MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT HAD WORN TWO HATS. IN MAKING THE ANNOUNCEMENT, JAROSZEWICZ WAS LAVISH IN HIS PRAISE OF KACZMAREK AND TOOK PAINS TO POINT OUT THAT NOT ONLY WOULD KACZMAREK REMAIN IN HIS OTHER POSITION AS SCIENTIFIC SECRETARY OF PAN, BUT THAT HE WOULD BE PROPOSED BY THE GOVERNMENT FOR ANOTHER TERM IN THAT OFFICE ALONG WITH THE NEW SLATE OF PAN
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OFFICIALS WHO WILL TAKE OFFICE ON JANUARY 1, 1975.

3. KALISKI'S OFFICIAL BIOGRAPHY STATES THAT HE WAS BORN IN TORUN ON DECEMBER 19, 1925, THE SON OF A NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICER IN THE POLISH ARMY. THIS MAY HELP TO EXPLAIN WHY HE OPTED FOR A MILITARY CAREER UPON GRADUATING FROM GDANSK POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE IN 1949 WITH A DEGREE IN CIVIL ENGINEERING. PERHAPS THE ARMY OFFERED HIM AN OPPORTUNITY TO CONTINUE HIS SCIENTIFIC EDUCATION AND RESEARCH. IN ANY CASE, HIS ENTIRE MILITARY CAREER HAS BEEN SPENT AS A RESEARCH SCIENTIST AND DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH PROJECTS. ALONG THE WAY HE ALSO HAS TAUGHT AT WARSAW POLYTECHNICAL INSTITUTE AND HAS BEEN A MEMBER OF THE POLISH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES SINCE 1961. HE IS SAID TO BE A BRILLIANT AND DILIGENT SCIENTIST AND ONE OF POLAND'S MOST CAPABLE APPLIED MATHEMATICIANS. HIS MAJOR SCIENTIFIC INTEREST IS SAID TO BE IN ELASTICITY. RECENTLY HE HAS ATTRACTED ATTENTION AS ONE OF POLAND'S FOREMOST LASER SPECIALISTS. UNDER HIS DIRECTION THE MILITARY TECHNICAL ACADEMY HAS COOPERATED CLOSELY WITH SILESIAN-BASED INDUSTRY, INCLUDING RESEARCH IN APPLIED MECHANICS FOR THE COAL-MINING INDUSTRY.

4. KALISKI TOOK HIS PH.D. IN 1954 AND WROTE HIS HABILITATION IN 1956. HE WAS NAMED A FULL PROFESSOR AND A CORRESPONDING MEMBER OF PAN IN 1961. IN 1970 HE BECAME A FULL MEMBER OF PAN AS WELL AS A MEMBER OF THE PAN PRESIDUM. HE IS A DEPUTY TO THE SEJM AND CHAIRMAN OF THE SEJM COMMISSION FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNICAL PROGRESS. HE IS A MEMBER OF THE POLISH UNITED WORKERS PARTY. MARRIED, WITH THREE CHILDREN, HE IS SAID TO SPEAK RUSSIAN, POOR ENGLISH, GERMAN, AND SOME FRENCH. IN THE MILITARY, HE ROSE TO THE PERSONAL RANK OF GENERAL OF DIVISION. DAVIES

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